

" There is good ground for expecting discovery in physical science to go forwards by leaps and bounds, in a way that may presently transform all our dealings with forms of force and kinds of substance. But what is no less needed than this greater knowledge of things is greater knowledge of men of the conditions of the successful workings of social institutions. That on which the world to-day most needs light is how to render more effective every form of social organisation how to make more socially fertile the relationships between men. There is no peril so dangerous as the failure to get community of education between classes "

Like many genuine prophets, they had to see their warnings go unheeded, and watch the facts realising their fears. But they stuck to their task. When, three years later, in 1923, the peril they apprehended seemed to them to have come dangerously nearer, they took up their pens again, and framed in *The Decay of Capitalist Civilisation* an indictment and a warning. It is a sombre and an eloquent warning a prevision of that collapse of which we all chatter nowadays. A harsh indictment yes, but a tremendously documented one. As they say of Marx, one can say of this book, that no one who reads it "can ever again fall under the illusion that capitalists, as such, are morally respectable "

Both as denunciation and as warning, *The Decay* is impressive in it, they "let themselves go," when, for the first time in all their long years of effort and study, they "tell Capitalism what they think of it " At the same time, they are hardly as much at home in this dark and negative region

as they are in their more constructive works
a great pamphlet, there is more of the stuff that
The Decay is
lives in *The*
Consumers' Co-operative Movement a book, already
discussed in
its bearing on their general scheme of Socialism,
which falls
into place here, too, since its later chapters
very clearly
indicate the line of thought that was moving
the minds of
the authors to a great decision—the
decision to enter
political life to go into Parliament